Intelligence and Statistics, Calcutta, the quantity of sugar imported and exported during the relevant periods are as follows:—

(Qty. : Tonnes)

| | 1-4-94 to 31-12-94 | 1-4-93 to 31-12-93 | 1-4-92 to 31-12-92 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Imports | 17,54,038 | 190 | 1,343 |
| Exports | 6,016 | 1,83,519 | 85,731 |

**Refusal to extend the Generalised Scheme of Preferences by European Union for Duty free Imports of Indian Textiles**

3109. SHRI O. P. KOHLI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the European Union has turned down Government's request to extend the concession of duty-free imports of Indian textiles under the Generalised Scheme of Preferences facility for at least another year;

(b) if so, whether Government has assessed the impact of European Union refusing duty concession for Indian textiles imports, particularly when the Indian textile industry has not developed fully yet and imports from countries like Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and Nepal continue to enjoy zero duty entry resulting in the European buyers turning to these countries; and

(c) if so, the steps Government propose to take to ensure that the Indian exports are not affected and help the Indian exporters now to compete with both the developed and less- developed countries under the new disposition?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (c) The GSP is a non contractual instrument by which industrialised countries unilaterally extend tariff concessions to developing countries. While the European Union's latest scheme was being formulated, India had made a number of suggestions. These included, *inter alia,* a constructive and extended regime for preferential treatment under GSP, removal of GSP quotas and ceilings and deepening of tariff preferences. While the EU accepted some of our suggestions such as removal of GSP quotas and ceilings, in respect of other suggestions, the response has been either negative or partial.

The impact of the EU's new scheme on our textile exports will be moderated by the fact that our principal competitors will be equally affected. Further, developing countries with per capita income exceeding 6000 dollars will not be extended GSP benefits w.e.f. 1.1.1996.

Available trade statistics for the period January-February 1995 for textile items show that exports to EU during the period have increased substantially over the same period in 1994.

**Modalities for formation of Export Committees**

3110 SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to refer to the answer to